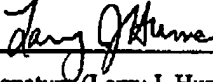


SEP 23 2004

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence, consisting of 17 pages, is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2827, facsimile no. 703 872-9306, on September 23, 2004.

  
Signature (Larry J. Hume)

Docket No.: 21806-00143-US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Thomas G. Ference et al.

Conf. No.: 4002

Application No.: 09/985,693

Art Unit: 2827

Filed: November 5, 2001

Examiner: David E. Graybill

For: ULTRA-FINE CONTACT ALIGNMENT

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 23, 2004

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2004 (Paper No. 6224), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**No fees are believed to be due with this amendment.**

23167\_DC